

Castle Hill, NY – U.S. Rep. John Hall (D-NY19) announced today that the Veterans Administration hospital at Castle Point will receive \$8,220,000 for necessary upgrades and renovations as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The funds will be used for energy efficiency and infrastructure improvements like installing a wind turbine on the campus as well as utility metering, upgrading the medical gas systems in patients' rooms, replacing aging roofs, fan coils, water main lines, and steam traps, repairing exterior masonry, and making renovations to create a modern community living center. Rep. Hall said, "we must ensure that our fighting men and women receive world-class health care in first-rate medical facilities when they return home from defending our country. The economic recovery money going to the Castle Point hospital will allow us to honor the commitments we have made to care for our veterans by funding needed repairs and enhancements to the hospital. As an added benefit, the renovations and upgrades at Castle Point will employ local contractors and help to jump-start the Hudson Valley's economy, and the new wind turbine will provide the campus with clean renewable American energy."

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which Hall helped to pass, will also aid veterans who received compensation from the Veterans Administration, pension payments, indemnity compensation or spina bifida benefits between November 2008 and January 2009, by providing them with a one-time payment of \$250. Rep. Hall said, "in these tough times, spurring economic growth by assisting our veterans is a way that we can honor their service while injecting needed funds into our local economy."

Recovery funds will also be used to hire and train temporary Veterans Administration claims processors, and to pursue needed information technology initiatives.

"As the number of veterans increases at a time of economic uncertainty, it is urgent for us to make sure that claims are processed quickly and efficiently, so that we can get our veterans the compensation they deserve," said Congressman Hall. "I am proud to have voted for the Economic Recovery package which will make sure this happens."